

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAKAR 02669 191510Z
ACTION AF-10

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FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9108
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY GABERONE
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY RABAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, SG
SUBJECT: SENEGAL VOICES SOLIDARITY WITH ZAIRE, SUGGESTS
ANGOLA GAVE ITS "BLESSING" TO SHABA INVASION

REF: A) STATE 66446 B) DAKAR 2191 C) DAKAR 2608
D) DAKAR 2637 (ALL NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FOLLOWING ANNOUNCEMENT THAT SENEGAL SENDING
PLANELOAD OF MEDICAL SUPPLIE TO ZAIRE, SENEGALESE FOREIGN
MINISTER HAS AFFIRMED SENEGAL'S CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE,
REITERATED SENEGAL'S OPPOSITION TO EXTERNALLY-MOUNTED
AGGRESSION, AND URGED AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO SUPPORT ZAIRE.
NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL SIMULTANEOUSLY WARNS THAT AFRICAN
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INTERESTS DO NOT LIE IN INTERNAL STRUGGLE AS CRITICAL MOMENT
IN EFFORTS TO END WHITE RULE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. END
SUMMARY.

2. SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSANE SECK HAS EXPRESSED
SENEGAL'S SOLIDARITY WITH ZAIRE ON SHABA SITUATION. FOLLOW-
ING ANNOUNCEMENT BY SENEGALES JUSTICE MINISTER MEENGUE

(REFTEL D) THAT SENEGAL WAS SENDING MEDICAL SUPPLIES TO ZAIRE, SECK GAVE INTERVIEW TO SENEGALESE PRESS AGENCY (APS), WHICH IS RECEIVING PROMINENT COVERAGE IN LOCAL BROADCAST AND PRINTED MEDIA. AS PUBLISHED IN APRIL 18 GOVERNMENT-OWNED LE SOLEIL, SECK NOTED THAT ZAIRE WAS FELLOW MEMBER OF NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT AND OAU AND "A COUNTRY WITH WHICH SENEGAL MAINTAINS CLOSE BILATERAL RELATIONS, INCREASINGLY CLOSE FOR THE LAST SEVERAL YEARS." SENEGAL, HE SAID, MANIFESTED ITS SOLIDARITY WHEN SUCH A COUNTRY ENCOUNTERED A SITUATION SUCH AS ZAIRE FACES. CITING OAU'S SUPPORT FOR MAINTENANCE OF INHERITED COLONIAL BOUNDARIES, SECK SAID SENEGAL HAD ALWAYS BEEN CLEAR ON THAT PROBLEM, WHETHER IT CONCERNED 1960 "KATANGANIZATION" CAMPAIGN, BIAFRA, OR ERITREA. FURTHERMORE, "SENEGAL OPPOSES ALL EXTERNAL AGGRESSION. WE THEREFORE DISPLAYED OUR OPPOSITION WHEN SOUTH AFRICA ATTACKED ANGOLA, AS WITH THE BENIN INVASION. IT IS IN THE SAME MANNER THAT SENEGAL MAKES COMMON CAUSE WITH ZAIRE, ATTACKED TODAY BY MERCENARIES COMING FROM OUTSIDE," SECK IS QUOTED AS SAYING. IF IT IS A QUESTION OF KATANGAN GENDARMES, SECK SAID, "EVERYONE KNOWS IN WHAT COUNTRY THEY HAVE BEEN FOR 17 YEARS. THEY FOUGHT IN THE RANKS OF A POLITICAL PARTY IN POWER TODAY, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE ORGANIZED THEMSELVES AND LEFT FOR 17 YEARS. THEY FOUGHT IN THE RANKS OF A POLITICAL PARTY IN POWER TODAY, AND IT IS CLEAR THAT THEY COULD NOT HAVE ORGANIZED THEMSELVES AND LEFT FOR ZAIRE WITHOUT THE BLESSING OF THE AUTHORITIES OF THE COUNTRY WHERE THEY WERE LIVING." SENEGALESE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HOPE THAT VAST MAJORITY OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES WOULD SHOW SOLIDARITY AND BRING EFFECTIVE SUPPORT TO

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ZAIRE IN FACE OF EXTERNAL AGGRESSION.

3. FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL IN SAME NEWSPAPER WARNS THAT SHABA SITUATION RUNS RISK OF "PLUNGING OUR CONTINENT INTO THE GREATEST CRISIS THAT IT HAS EVER KNOWN. THE MOROCCAN-CUBAN FACE-OFF WHICH HAS EXISTED SINCE THURSDAY ALREADY APPEARS AS A SYMBOL PRESAGING AN EAST-WEST CONFRONTATION." EDITORIAL PREDICTS THAT SHABA SITUATION WILL ECLIPSE RHODESIAN QUESTION IN "FRONT LINE" CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN LUANDA. LE SOLEIL NOTES THAT "FRONT LINE" PRESIDENTS ARE, "IN THE ENSEMBLE, FAVORABLE TO THE ANGOLAN REGIME. BUT THEY ALSO HAVE SUFFICIENT PERSPECTIVE TO BE CONSCIOUS OF THE GRAVE DANGER WHICH HANGS OVER THEIR REGION." NEWSPAPER EXPRESSES HOPE THAT THEY "WILL ATTEMPT TO DEFUSE THE BOMB." NOTING ARRIVAL OF OAU SECRETARY GENERAL ETEKI MBOUMOUA IN LUANDA, EDITORIAL SUGGESTS THAT HE COULD PLAY MEDIATION ROLE BETWEEN NETO AND MOBUTU. PAPER CALLS IT UNFORTUNATE THAT "URGENT DOSSIER" OF ZIMBABWE MUST AWAIT SOLUTION FOR THIS PROBLEM AND CONCLUDES THAT FIRST LESSON TO BE DRAWN IS THAT AFRICAN

INTERESTS DO NOT LIE IN INTERNAL STRUGGLES PRECISELY AT
MOMENT OF "TWILIGHT OF WHITE POWER" IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND
"DAWN OF A NEW WORLD ORDER."
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